



**SANTA VENETIA COMMUNITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Summary Minutes**

Tuesday, July 8, 2014  
7:00-9:00 pm  
Marin County Civic Center, Room 315  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**Members Present**

Jane Brand  
Russ Greenfield  
Bonnie Monte  
Roger Heller  
Giselle Block  
Mary Hanley  
Tamara Hull

**Staff**

Christine Gimmler, Senior Planner  
Lauren Armstrong, Planner

**1. Summary Minutes**

The Advisory Committee accepted the summary minutes from June 3, 2014.

**2. Issues for Discussion**

The Committee discussed the recent removal of a large oak tree located along the North San Pedro Road right-of-way that had been identified as a potential safety hazard by the County Department of Public Works. Committee members noted community concerns about the lack of public notice regarding removal of the tree. In response to several questions, staff provided a brief explanation of the County's Native Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance, noting that trees that are found to be a potential public health and safety hazard are exempt from the Tree Removal Permit process, regardless of whether they are located on public or private property. It is likely that the health of this particular tree was impacted by nearby development. The committee recognized a need to pay close attention to the potential impact of proposed development on trees in the vicinity, including trees located on surrounding properties or right-of-ways.

**3. Summary of Community Workshop #2**

The Committee discussed the second Community Workshop, held June 9<sup>th</sup>, which was well-attended and well-received by the community. Committee members felt that it was very helpful to have representatives from County departments and other agencies at the topic tables to answer questions from the public. It was encouraging to see residents that some committee members had never seen before, as well as representatives from the Marin County Fire department. County planning staff prepared a summary of the feedback gathered through surveys and topic tables, which is now available on the Santa Venetia

Community Plan website. Residents can still fill out online surveys on the topics discussed at the workshop, also linked to the website.

There was discussion about how to integrate the public feedback from the second workshop with the results of the August 2013 workshop and the 2011 community survey. The community plan process has helped identify issues, and the second workshop provided further refinement. It should be recognized that the workshop attendees and completed surveys represent only a small fraction of the total community, and therefore the results should help inform the plan rather than dictate it. Full documentation of the comments received at the public workshops can be included as an appendix to the Community Plan. Overall, it was felt that the feedback received at the workshop provided confirmation that the Plan will address the main issues of interest to the community.

#### **4. Draft Plan Outline**

Committee members reviewed the draft Community Plan outline and provided comments. Issues that did not receive strong support in the workshop, such as recreational fields, may still be appropriate to include in the plan. Staff indicated that the Natural Resources section will give an overview of the particular habitats, species and resources that are present and valued in Santa Venetia. There was a request to consider including Protected Lands in the natural resources map. Regarding transportation issues, there was a suggestion to include a map of proposed transit service, if applicable. The Flooding section should encourage a holistic approach to watershed planning, supporting the efforts of the Gallinas Watershed Program. Staff acknowledged that flooding is a very important issue to the community, and one that is subject to complex technical and financial considerations.

#### **5. Revised Schedule**

Staff presented a revised community plan schedule, which allows for review and adoption of the plan before the end of 2014 to coincide with Santa Venetia's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Based on the tentative schedule, the plan would be considered by the Planning Commission on October 27<sup>th</sup> and the Board of Supervisor's on November 25<sup>th</sup>. These hearings would provide a forum for members of public to comment on the plan. Staff will also work on scheduling a community meeting in early October to present the plan to the public and answer questions. In response to a suggestion from Committee members, staff offered to have a flyer or other materials about the plan and upcoming meetings available for distribution at the SNVA's Labor Day picnic.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting will be held Tuesday, September 9, 2014 to review the Draft Community Plan. The committee will recess in August while staff continues work on preparing an administrative draft of the plan for Advisory Committee review.

#### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.